



STATE OF MAINE

MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on September 12, 2003, at Point Lookout, Northport with the following members present: Chair Jean Gulliver, Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Joyce McPhetres, Wes Bonney, Ken Allen, Jack Norris, Ellie Multer, Janet Tockman, and Jim Carignan.

Also present were: Susan Gendron, Commissioner; Judith Malcolm, Team Leader, Support Systems Team; Scott Brown, AIA, School Construction; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

AMENDED DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL FOR THE WINDSOR MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Windsor Elementary School, a kindergarten through grade eight facility, ranked 19th on the 1999-2000 Special Priority List. The project is a major renovation project with a substantial addition. The project received State Board of Education Concept Approval on September 11, 2002. The project is very complex in that the students will continue to attend school on site during the construction process. In order to coordinate the project with the school calendar, the site development contract was signed prior to the construction/renovation phase going to bid.

The low bidder on the project was ICN Construction. Their bid with required alternates exceeded available funds by \$519,358.

The architect, with input from the contractor, prepared a list of all possible reductions that went first to the Windsor Building Committee. The superintendent, Windsor school officials, and the architect then presented the recommendations of the Building Committee to the Department's Facility Review Team.

After reviewing the list of possible reductions and holding several meetings with the Windsor school officials and the architect additional savings totaling \$279,036 were identified in the construction documents. Maintaining the quality of the building and retaining durable, long lasting finishes were the Department's priorities when reviewing the possible budget reductions. With revised construction amounts, a Final Funding

Budget was developed with included proportional increases to the construction contingencies. Additional monies identified to complete the project were as follows:

	<u>State/Local</u>	<u>Local Only</u>
Additional Construction Monies Required	\$223,909	\$16,413
Additional Contingencies Monies Required	<u>\$20,735</u>	<u>\$1,261</u>
Total Addition Funds Required	\$244,644	\$17,674

Cost allocations for this increase are based on the proportions of 96% State/Local monies and 4% local-only monies, which were established at the time of Design and Funding Approval.

Project Information:

Project: Windsor Elementary School
Superintendent: Lyford Beverage
Principal: Donna Sawyer
Architectural Firm: Stephen Blatt Architects

Amount Approved on June 11, 2003

Design Funding Amount \$7,588,200
Amount Included in Subsidized Debt Service: \$7,339,700
Local-Only Project Funds: \$248,500

The Construction Committee of the State Board of Education, at its meeting on September 4, 2003, voted unanimously to recommend to the State Board of Education that it approve the proposed amendment of the Windsor project to increase the total project funds to \$7,850,518.

Recommendation: It is recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education amend the State/Local amount of the \$7,339,700 approved on June 11, 2003, by adding \$244,644 bringing the new approved State/Local to \$7,584,344 and by amending Local-only project funds by \$17,674 to total \$266,174. This will increase the total project funds from \$7,588,200 to \$7,850,518.

Amended Funding Approval Amounts – September 12, 2003

Project Total: \$7850,518 (includes additional \$262,318)
Amount Included in Subsidized Debt Service: \$7,584,344 (includes additional \$244,644)
Local-Only Project Funds: \$266,174 (includes additional \$17,674)

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted to amend the State/Local amount of \$7,339,700 approved on June 11, 2003, by adding \$244,644 bringing the new approved State/Local total to \$7,584,344, and by amending

the local-only project funds by \$17,674 to total \$266,174. This will increase the total project funds from \$7,588,200 to \$7,850,518.

MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT; PORTLAND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, EAST END SCHOOL, CONCEPT
APPROVAL CONSIDERATION

Below is a brief description of the East End School project located in Portland. The Portland School Department requests that it be considered for Concept Approval pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15901(1) with a period of up to 30 months Interest-only Interim Local Financing pursuant to Title 20-A, Section 15905(7). This project combines two applications from the last rating cycle: the Jack Elementary School and the Adams School both located on Munjoy Hill in Portland.

Project Information:

Project: Portland School Department – East End School
Superintendent: Mary Jo O’Connor
Principal: Carol Dayn
Architectural Firm: Stephen Blatt Architects

Superintendent Mary Jo O’Connor has provided the following project description statement:

“Our district’s long-term Elementary Facilities Plan calls for the consolidation of eleven mainland schools (two of which have been closed within the last two years) to a plan for seven.

We stand poised and ready to begin this work with the concept plan for our new East End School. Underpinning the design is our understanding and deeply felt belief that schools need to be places where human potential is acknowledged through programs and resources that promote and sustain success for every child. Our school – serious in purpose – joyous in accomplishment – will have clusters of classrooms that are mixed in grade K-2 and grade 3-5 configurations. We do this as a way to support our belief in the idea of continuous individualized progress for students. These groupings will not only invite collaboration between and amongst students in different grade levels – it will support the need for teacher collaboration/teacher inquiry into the complexities and challenges involved in meeting each child’s needs on a continuum toward the standards. In addition to classroom space, we have added one classroom – a “hands on” space – that will provide multiple pathways for students to learn. We envision this room having, for example, space for woodworking, for cooking, for handwork. It is our belief that this room be accessed not as an “add on” at the end of a busy day – but that it become an integral part of assessing not only how some students learn – but a place where students begin to find success as a learner.

The former Jack School – which this school will replace – was a failing school. Certainly the resources were there – as was a willing and talented staff of educators. It is our hope that the concept design for this school will assist our work in shifting the culture for students, for staff, for families that is less about inputs – and more about outcomes to the standards – and less about intentions – and more solidly on results.”

Project Budget Information:

Estimated Project Cost: \$11,150,000
Local Share (No State Participation): \$1,378,000
Revolving Renovation Fund: \$600,000
Approved for Inclusion in Debt Service: \$9,172,000

Portland will initiate construction earlier than the Department of Education’s construction initiation date. The city will not use Bond Anticipation Notes but instead will sell bonds as funds are needed to finance the project. The cost of the principal and interest will be born by the city until the state’s anticipated bonding date of the fall of 2006. Beginning with the spring of 2007 payment, State/Local principal and interest costs from the point on for approved public school facilities in the East End School will be credited as State Board of Education approved debt service.

At its meeting on September 4, 2003, the Construction Committee of the State Board of Education voted unanimously to recommend to the State Board of Education grant concept approval to the Portland School Department’s East End School

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Portland School Department for the East End School construction project and approve the budget with the provision as stated above. Included in the recommendation is a period of up to 30 months of Interest-only Local Financing. It is further recommended that the Portland School Department be approved for an accelerated construction initiation date.

MOVED by Wes Bonney, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted to grant concept approval to the Portland School Department for the East End School construction project and approve the budget with the provision as stated above. Included in the recommendation is a period of up to 30 months of interest-only interim local financing. It is further recommended that the Portland School Department be approved for an accelerated construction initiation date.

Ellie noted that the City of Portland will sell bonds and assume the cost of all principal and interest prior to the state’s anticipated bonding date. Should the project come in over-budget, however, she stressed that the durability of the building must not be sacrificed in an effort to bring costs into line.

MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT – CONCEPT APPROVAL CONSIDERATION – AUGUSTA SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT, CONY HIGH SCHOOL.

Statement of Fact: Below is a brief description of the proposed Cony High School Project to be located at the Capitol Area Technical Center site in Augusta. The school will serve students from Augusta as well as tuition students from neighboring communities. The program and the concept for the new school have had extensive public input and study by the Augusta officials and the school's designer. The Augusta School Department requests that it be considered for Concept Approval pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15901(1) with 12 months Interest-Only Interim Local Financing pursuant to Title 20-A, Section 15905(7).

Project Information:

Project: Augusta School Department - Cony High School
Superintendent: Dr. Cornelia Brown
Principal: Geraldine Massey
Architectural Firm: Portland Design Team

Superintendent Cornelia Brown has provided the following project description statement:

“The new Cony High School will replace a historic institution located on arguably the most dangerous intersection in Maine. The site for the proposed new Cony High School is located on the grounds of the Capital Area Technical Center campus. The curriculums of the two facilities will complement each other; time, transportation and scheduling will no longer be barriers to learning.

The new Cony High School will be designed for maximum flexibility to allow the school to be reorganized into multiple school arrangements during the life of the building. The concept will foster a culture of increased sharing and problem solving and allow teachers to communicate between disciplines. This is a personalized environment, strengthening programs to meet student needs and encouraging a connection between students and their teachers.

Maine's Learning Results have put forth a new challenge to schools in our state. Ultimately, each student, progressing independently and collaboratively, will, according to a deliberate comprehensive local assessment plan, strive to become a responsible individual within the framework of a new high school. Technology is transforming and expanding this opportunity as well. We will provide an education in a safe, secure learning environment where each student is required to obtain the academic, social and personal skills necessary to become an involved, contributing and producing citizen.

Cony's greatest strengths are its tremendous pride and the good will of its constituents. We have accepted the challenge of building a future equal to or greater than our past and moving into the 21st Century with a facility and curriculum worthy of the richly varying talents and gifts of our students.“

Project Budget Information:

Estimated Project Cost: \$ 29,717,105
Local Share (No State Participation): \$ 5,121,500
Maine High Performance Schools Grant: \$ 120,000
Approved for Inclusion in Debt Service: \$ 24,475,605

The Construction Committee, at its meeting on September 4, 2003, unanimously recommended that the State Board of Education grant concept approval for the new Cony High School.

Recommendation: It is recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Augusta School Department for the Cony High School construction project and approve the budget. Included in the recommendation is 12 months of Interest-Only Interim Local Financing. It is further recommended that the Augusta School Department be approved for an accelerated construction date.

The Local Share of \$5,121,500 includes \$366,198 to pay for interest on Bond Anticipation Notes that will provide financing so that Augusta can begin construction six months prior to the State's Construction Initiation Date. Any additional Bond Anticipation Note's interest costs beyond the \$366,198 will be the sole responsibility of the Augusta School Department.

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted to grant concept approval to the Augusta School Department for the Cony High School construction project and approve the budget. Included in the recommendation is 12 months of interest-only interim local financing. It is further recommended that the Augusta School Department be approved for an accelerated construction date.

The Local Share or \$5,121,500 includes \$366,198 to pay for interest on Bond Anticipation Notes that will provide financing so that Augusta can begin construction six months prior to the State's Construction Initiation Date. Any additional Bond Anticipation Note's interest costs beyond the \$366,198 will be the sole responsibility of the Augusta School Department.

MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT; LINCOLNVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL CONCEPT APPROVAL
CONSIDERATION

Statement of Fact: Below is a brief description of the Lincolnville Central School project located in Lincolnville. The Lincolnville School Department requests that it be considered for Concept Approval pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15901(1).

Project Information:

Project: Lincolnville Central School
Superintendent: David C. Wiggin
Principal: Paul A. Russo
Architectural Firm: Oak Point Associates

Superintendent David Wiggin has provided the following project description statement:

“In the spring of 2000 the Lincolnville School Committee closed the Lincolnville Central School due to contaminated air caused by mold growth throughout the building. Since that time Lincolnville’s 250 K-8 students have been housed at a leased facility owned by MBNA at Point Lookout in Northport. The construction of a new elementary/middle school in Lincolnville will have a dramatic impact on the educational program for our students.

- A new school will provide space and facilities to offer a comprehensive program to fulfill the school department’s commitment to Maine’s Learning Results.
- Students will attend school in the Town of Lincolnville closer to their homes and families.
- The Town will have an educational center for both school and community programs including a gymnasium with ample space for town meetings and other community programs including adult education.
- The new school will be located next to the existing athletic fields and facilities maintained by the Town and the school department.
- The need for extensive busing will be diminished.
- The new building will provide space for future early childhood and after school programs for children in the community not possible with the leased facility.
- The new school will provide space for music, art, and athletic programs that will serve all students.

The people in Lincolnville have shown overwhelming support for the school through their efforts in fundraising and through the straw poll votes that have been taken for site selection. Our teachers and staff have worked hard with our architect to provide a design that will meet the educational needs of our young people for many years to come.”

Project Budget Information:

Estimated Project Cost: \$ 9,827,054
Local Share (No State Participation): \$ 2,514,935
Maine High Performance Schools Grant: \$ 120,000
Approved for Inclusion in Debt Service: \$ 7,192,119

The Lincolnville School Department plans to initiate construction ahead of schedule. The School Department will first expend the Local Only funds budgeted under the project. The School Department will then take out Bond Anticipation Notes to meet their financial obligations until the bonding date in the spring of 2005. The School

Department has budgeted \$30,000 in local only funds to finance interest payments on the Bond Anticipation Notes. Should interest costs exceed the budgeted amount, Lincolnville will be solely responsible for any additional interest costs.

At its meeting on September 4, 2003, the Construction Committee unanimously recommended that the State Board of Education grant concept approval for the Lincolnville Central School

Recommendation: It is recommended by the Department of Education that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for the Lincolnville Central School construction project and approve the attached budget. It is further recommended that the Lincolnville School Department be approved for an accelerated construction initiation date.

MOVED by Jack Norris, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted to grant concept approval for the Lincolnville Central School construction project and approve the budget. It is further recommended that the Lincolnville School Department be approved for an accelerated construction initiation date.

The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion involving the “Commissioning” line item. This line item has recently appeared as an added cost in the construction budget. Considerable concern was expressed that this added cost is part of the total construction budget, what is it’s role, functionality, and overall purpose? The Board’s understanding was that there already exists a system of checks and balances and that these costs are already part of the total cost of the construction project. By adding another line item, which ultimately increases the total project cost and appears to be an overlap of resources, seems to be an inefficient use of money. The Department of Education agreed to review the matter and report back to the State Board at a subsequent meeting.

RESOLUTION, LD 1629, A COMPETING MEASURE

RESOLUTION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 12, 2003

Support of LD 1629

One of the goals of the State Board of Education is to enhance “learning opportunities and support [education] systems through the efficient use of resources to accomplish essential services.”

In pursuit of this goal the State Board of Education finds that it is in the best interests of the people of Maine to assure equitable and sufficient resources to support each student.

Furthermore, we believe that a responsible education funding plan, phased-in to achieve 55% state funding, will best serve our students without jeopardizing other critical state services. The addition of a limit on the mandated local mill rate to support education will assure greater taxpayer equity. The combination of funding based on Essential Programs and Services and a five-year phase in will achieve equity for both students and property taxpayers.

The State Board of Education believes that LD 1629, A Competing Measure, put forward by the Governor and Legislature, best achieves the needed balance. Therefore, the State Board supports this proposal which will appear on the ballot in November 2003.

Vote: 9-0-0 (Unanimous)

MOVED by Jim Carignan, seconded by Ken Allen, and unanimously voted in favor of the above resolution.

ADJOURNMENT:

The State Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the September 12, 2003, meeting at 2:30 p.m.